

## TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO†

### EXCERPTS FROM OUR STATE MEDICAL JOURNAL

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#### From Some Editorial Notes:

1916.—Another whole, clean, new book to write things in; and this time it has 366 pages—that gives us one day more to do something worth while on that extra day of this new year. The man who gets to the point where he thinks there is nothing in the way of betterment or improvement that he can put into himself or his work ought to crawl off somewhere and die, quietly and unostentatiously, so as not to disturb the people who are trying to do things. It is a good world, though a bit troubled in spots just now [World War I], and there is such a lot to be done in it. . . .

Let's all make up our minds that we are going to write some good things on these 366 pages of ours this year, and, first of all, let's write on the first page—and all the others—that we are going to be mighty careful that we do not speak uncharitably or carelessly in a slighting way, of the other fellow's work or treatment or operation or whatever it may be. You can't always tell what the other fellow had to contend with, you know. And then, every little while, just to remind yourself, write a memorandum to the effect that you can never believe a patient when he criticizes a doctor—for he does not know what the doctor was trying to do and he is not competent to express an opinion anyhow. And then, just to reduce our pride in ourselves and our own wonderful achievements, we might write another occasional memorandum to ourselves, recalling some of our own blunders in diagnosis or treatment and some of the mistakes that we do not like to talk about in public; such things are quite wholesome, unless we are beyond all hope of redemption. . . .

And so, let it be a happy New Year, and a prosperous New Year, and best of all, for all of us, everyone, a better New Year!

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*State Society—Fresno, April 18, 19, 20, 1916.*—The annual meeting of the State Society this year will be a notable one for many reasons. We had no meeting last year, owing to the fact that the American Medical Association came to San Francisco to meet with us, and an overwhelming majority of our members—or, officially, delegates—expressed a desire not to have two meetings, but to concentrate our energies on the American Medical Association meeting. The Society has not had a meeting away from the Coast for a number of years; the last time was at Sacramento. It has not met in the San Joaquin Valley since 1898, when the historic battle of the umbrella and the pencil occurred, in Fresno. Incidentally, three of our members were arrested during that session, though it may be said in passing that none of them had committed any crime more serious than riding a bicycle on the sidewalk.

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*Dr. William Ophüls, Dean.*—It is a pleasure to announce, and it will be a pleasure to all his friends—and they are legion—to know that Doctor Ophüls has been appointed dean of the Medical School of Leland Stanford, Jr., University. Doctor Ophüls' kindness and good nature are no less great than his erudition, and during the years that he

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† This column strives to mirror the work and aims of colleagues who bore the brunt of Association activities some twenty-five years ago. It is hoped that such presentation will be of interest to both old and new members.

## BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA†

By CHARLES B. PINKHAM, M. D.  
Secretary-Treasurer

#### News

"Governor Olson announced today the appointment of Dr. Hugo M. Kersten, Los Angeles physician, to the State Board of Medical Examiners and the reappointment of Dr. Charles B. Pinkham of San Francisco. Doctor Kersten succeeds Dr. William R. Molony of Los Angeles, whose term expired last January 15." (Press dispatch dated Los Angeles, November 13, 1940, and printed in the *Sacramento Bee*, same date.)

"Dr. C. E. Schoff of Sacramento today resigned as a member of the State Board of Medical Examiners because of his health. He was first appointed to the Board February 1, 1929. His term will expire on January 15, 1941. Governor Culbert L. Olson's office said no successor has been named." (*Sacramento Bee*, November 20, 1940.)

"The first department-wide meeting in the eleven-year history of the State Department of Professional and Vocational Standards this week produced suggestions that may lead to an extensive program of streamlining and elimination of waste effort, Director Dwight W. Stephenson announced yesterday. . . . Stephenson suggested that instead of all sixteen boards in the department introducing their own bills in the legislature and battling each other on those measures, they get together beforehand, do their scrapping behind closed doors, and come to the solons with a unified program. Legal fees now cost the department approximately \$30,000 a biennium, the bulk of this going to the Attorney-General's office and the rest to two part-time attorneys. But, says Stephenson, the Attorney-General's office hasn't the time to render the boards proper service—it takes six months sometimes to get a legal written opinion. So the suggestion was made to hire two full-time attorneys, at \$5,000 for one and \$3,000 for the other per year. This, says the director, would not only cut the legal fees in half, but it would give all boards continual access to legal service. Another money-saving suggestion made was to establish referees for each board. As it is now, when, say the medical boards want to hold a hearing on a disciplinary matter, the majority of the board must sit—at per diem expense to the state, of course. If referees were available, many of the matters could be settled with just that one man sitting. . . . All of these changes will require legislative action. . . ." (*Sacramento Union*, November 29, 1940.)

#### PHYSICIANS AND SURGEONS RECEIVING CALIFORNIA LICENSES IN DECEMBER, 1940

Charles B. Pinkham, M. D., Secretary-Treasurer of the Board of Medical Examiners of the State of California, reports results of the written examination held in Sacramento, October 22 to 24, inclusive, 1940. The examination for physicians and surgeons covered nine subjects and included ninety questions. An average of 75 per cent is required to pass. Seventy-seven applicants wrote the examination. Included in the applicants were several graduates of foreign medical schools.

The highest mark for physicians and surgeons (98 7/9 per cent) was made by Maxwell Sender Kassel, M. D.,

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† The office addresses of the California State Board of Medical Examiners are printed in the roster on advertising page 6.